REMARKS

This amendment, responsive to the Office Action of October 3, 2000, cancels claims 16-18 without prejudice or disclaimer; and amends claims 1, 13, 14, 15, and 27.

Applicant reserves the right to later address or rebut any of the Examiner's direct or tacit assertions or characterizations of the references in this Action, to the extent the following remarks do not.

Response to §103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 14-15, 19-20 and 25 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Mastering Microsoft Office 97 (Office 97). In making the rejection, the Examiner stated that the Office 97 My-Document feature is applications independent, without citing any specific support. As such, it appears that the Examiner is taking Official Notice of this feature. Applicant therefore requests, pursuant to MPEP 2144.03, that the Examiner produce specific documentary support for this independence feature or withdraw the statement.

Additionally, applicant submits that Office 97 is a suite of application programs including the Word wordprocessing program, the Excel spreadsheet program, the PowerPoint presentation program, and Outlook personal-information-management program. Each of these programs works independently of the other and is hardcoded to specify the MyDocuments folder as a default storage folder. In other words, existence and use of a My Documents folder in Office 97 is dependent on the code of the application programs in the suite, not independent of the applications program.

See, for example, page 358 of the Office 97 materials state that "[w]hen Word is installed, a folder called My Documents is created and is used as the default location for your documents," and Table 33.2 on page 759 which states that "[the MyDocuments folder] is the default location to which the Office Applications save." There is no indication in this statement nor any other statement that applicant could find in the Examiner-provided reference that the MyDocuments folder is defined as the default

·storage folder by anything other than the application programs themselves. More

importantly, there's nothing in these materials indicating that the operating system selects

or defines the My Documents folder as the default storage folder for the programs in the

suite or any other application programs. In fact, it is the code of the application

programs in the suite, not the operating system, that designates the My Documents folder

as the default storage folder.

Moreover, applicant notes that the Background of the present application, at page

2, line 29 – page 3, line 14, states:

> One partial solution to this problem [of documents being stored in
> numerous application-program folders] entailed programming a family of four
> application programs, to store, or save, their documents to a common folder,
> unless users specified otherwise. In other words, the suite of four application
> programs were programmed to use a common default folder, instead of the four
> different folders containing the application programs. A commercial example of
> this approach is the Office 95 (tm) family of business software from Microsoft
> Corporation of Redmond, Washington. This software family included application
> programs for word processing, spread sheeting, desktop publishing, and
> information management, all of which were programmed to save documents by
> default, that is, unless otherwise instructed, to a folder named My Documents.
>
> However, this approach to default document storage applied only to
> application programs in the software family, not to the many other application
> programs that a typical computer system includes. Moreover, it did nothing to
> provide users with more convenient, straightforward access to the default folder,
> which can be difficult to find among a large number of folders.   ·

The Office 97 suite of application programs implements the same partial solution

as did the Office 95 suite of application programs described in the present Background.

Accordingly, it suffers from the same shortcoming of leaving the definition of the default-

storage folder to the user or to the application programs themselves. In contrast, claims

1-5, 14-15, and 25 require definition of the default-storage folder independent of the

application programs, for example, at the operating-system level or through specification

of the file-operation dialog boxes. This approach allows the default-storage folder to be

automatically presented to any application program working under the operating system

or accessing the file-operation dialog boxes. Thus, claims 1-5, 14, and 15 distinguish

from Office 97.

Moreover, the current rejection offers no motivation for modifying Office 97 to meet the full terms of these claims. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the 103 rejection of claims 1-5, 14, and 15 be withdrawn.

Claims 19 and 20 recite "a most-recently-used file menu defined to display links to one or more most-recently-used files and to one or more document folders. In other words, claims 19 and 20 require the file menu to display file links and folder links, not just file links.

In rejecting this claim, the Examiner asserted that "[t]he Document menu option links to the My-Document folder which contains 15 most recently used files and/or folders," citing Figures 6.2 and 10.3 and a note on page 238. However, neither of these cited portions of the Office 97 reference support the Examiner's assertion. Figure 6.2 shows a list of most-recently-used ".doc" files. The list does not show a link to the MyDocument's folder, nor any other folder for that matter. Figure 10.3 shows a set of folders contained within the MyDocument's folder; it does not list any most-recently-used files together with folders. The note on page 238, cited by the Examiner to support his assertion, states "[y]ou will never see multiple copies of the same document within the same folder. Because Word replaces your last saved file with the most recently saved filed, you will see only one copy of your document (with the same name) in a folder." This statement says nothing about displaying most-recently-used files in combination with a document folder as elements of a list or menu. Accordingly, applicant requests respectfully that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 19 and 20.

The Examiner also rejected claims 6-13, 21, and 25 as unpatentable over Office 97, maintaining the rationales set forth in the previous Office Action.

Claims 6-11 require "an operating system which defines the predetermined file-storage container as a default file-storage container on file-operation dialog windows accessible by application programs." In contrast, the Office 97 materials indicate that the MyDocuments folder is created by the Word installation program, not by the operating system itself. (Page 358 of the Office 97 materials.) Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-11.

Claim 12 requires "determining whether one of the applications has specified a folder for storing files related to the one application; determining whether the one application has redirected file storage from the folder to a current folder; determining whether files within the current folder are of one or more particular types; and automatically setting a default folder for storing files related to the one application, provided that the one application has not specified a folder for storing files, that the application has not redirected file storage to the current folder, and that no file stored within the current folder is of the one or more particular types." And, claim 25 requires "means for determining whether one of the applications has specified a folder for storing files related to the one application; means for determining whether the one application has redirected file storage from the folder to a current folder; means for determining whether files within the current folder are of one or more particular types; and means for automatically setting a default folder for storing files related to the one application, provided that the one application has not specified a folder for storing files, that the application has not redirected file storage to the current folder, and that no file stored within the current folder is of the one or more particular types.

The Examiner has not identified specifically how or even where the Office 97 materials indicate performance of the acts or functions in these claims. Indeed, there appears to be nothing in the Office 97 materials, which meets all the requirements of these claims. In fact, as already noted, the My Documents folder is created as the default storage folder upon installation of the Word application program, which appears to automatically present it as a default storage folder for Word documents, without making the determinations recited in claim 12 and claim 25. Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claim 21 requires "a desktop that provides access to a predetermined file-storage container and to one or more application programs; and one or more file-operations windows accessible by application programs, wherein each file-operations window includes a link to the desktop." In contrast, Figure 6.2 of the Office 97 materials, which the Examiner cited in the previous Action as showing a desktop link, shows only file

links. There is no desktop link shown in the Figure. Invoking a file link opens the associated file; it does invoke presentation of the desktop, as would invocation of a desktop link. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.

Response to §102 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claim 26 (renumbered as claim 27) under 35 USC § 102(a) as anticipated by Office 97, citing pages 6 and 238.

Claim 27 requires "defining within the operating system of a computer system a default document folder for use by two or more application programs before initiating installation of the application programs on the computer system" and "displaying an icon associated with the default document folder during a file operation relating to one or more of the application programs." Although the Examiner cites pages 6 and 238 as supporting his rejection, close study of these pages reveals that they do not meet the requirements of claim 27. Page 6 appears only to mention operating system in the following passage: "All of the products have been written to run optimally under Microsoft's newest operating system, Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0. The Office programs take full advantage of the powers of these operating systems, from their 32-bit multitasking core to their newly polished interface that makes computing more intuitive than ever before." (Page 6, first paragraph.) There is no other mention of operating systems anywhere on page 6. Thus, it appears that there is no support for the Examiner's rejection.

Moreover, the Office 97 materials specify that the MyDocuments folder is created during installation of Word (or one of the other programs in the suite) not before initiating installation as claim 27 requires.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amended claims and highlighted deficiencies of the cited art, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application. Moreover, applicant invites the Examiner to call its patent counsel Eduardo Drake at (612) 349-9593 to resolve any remaining issues that may impede allowance. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612-349-9593) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.
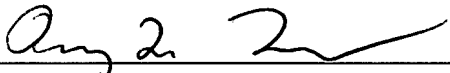
Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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